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From the similar triangles CMB and CAN

$$\frac{a}{m} = \frac{a+y}{\sqrt{(c^2-y^2)}}, \text{ or } a^2c^2 - a^2y^2 = a^2m^2 + 2am^2y + m^2y^2,$$

$$(m^2 - c^2)a^2 + (m^2 + a^2)y^2 + 2am^2y = 0.$$
(2)

whence

Substituting the value of y from (1) we have

$$(m^2-c^2)a^2+(m^2+a^2)\left(\frac{k}{a}-n\right)^2+2am^2\left(\frac{k}{a}-n\right)=0$$
,

or

$$(m^2-c^2)a^4 + (m^2+a^2)(k^2-2akn+a^2n^2) + 2a^2m^2(k-an) = 0,$$

which by expansion and reduction becomes

$$(m^2+n^2-c^2)a^4-2n(k+m^2)a^3+[m^2(n^2+2k)+k^2]a^2-2knm^2a+k^2m^2=0,$$
 from which to find a .

Note.— This problem has been known in schools under the following form. A tree of known height n, standing on a side hill, was broken over by the wind, and while still clinging to the stump its top touched the ground at a distance c from the foot of the stump. The perpendicular distance from the foot of the tree to the broken over part was measured and found to be m; required the height of the stump.

Demonstration of the Theorem of Apollonius and its Reciprocal by W. E. Heal.—1. Let ODD'O' be a quadrilateral; A, P' points

taken in opposite sides. The diagonals of the quadrilaterals ODD'O', ODP'A, O'-D'P'A intersect in p'ts that lie in a strai't line, CRC'.

2. In any quadrilateral AB'RS let a p't B be joined to two opposite vertices, A, B. The lines DD', OC, O'C' joining the intersection of opposite sides of the original quadrilateral and of the two derived quadr'ls meet in a point, P'.

To prove 1, produce D'D, O'O to meet in P. The lines ABCD, PDP'D' cutting the pencil AOD give $[ABCD]^* = [PD'P'D]$. The lines PDP'D' cutting the pencil AO'D' give [PD'P'D] = [AD'C'B']; \ldots [ABCD] = [AD'C'B']. The points A, B, C, D; A, B', C', D' having the same anhar. ratio and one point, A, common, the lines BD', CC', DB' joining the other corr. points meet in a point R; \ldots C, R, C' are in the same straight line.

To prove 2, join R, A. The lines ABCD, AB'C'D cutting the pencil ARD give [ABCD] = [AD'C'B']. The pencils O'OD, OO'D' having the same anh. ratio and one ray OO' common, the intersections D, P', D' of the other corr. rays lie in a straight line. That is DD', OC, O'C' meet in a point.

^{*}The notation [ABCD] denotes the anharmonic ratio of A, B, C, D.